



# inps journal

Indiana Native Plant Society

Winter 2019-20

## Native tree profile

# Serviceberry, a versatile native

**By Katherine Newkirk**

In praise of the serviceberry (*Amelanchier* spp.), William Cullina wrote in his 2002 book, *Native Trees, Shrubs, & Vines*, "Their understated beauty, fruits, and importance to

birds and mammals put them near the top of my list of natives for the landscape."

In fact, serviceberry often shows up on lists of recommended woody natives, including lists of alternatives to Callery pear (*Pyrus calleryana*).

Jo Ellen Meyers Sharp blogs at *Holemanlandscape.com*, "We hear all the time about plants with multiple seasons of interest. At the top of the list is serviceberry."

Individuals commonly grow to 25 feet, and occasionally 40 feet, in height. They adapt to a variety of situations in

the landscape since they may be grown with a single trunk or several stems. It may serve as a street tree, specimen tree or along a woodland edge. Thanks to a fibrous root system, it is readily transplantable.

Indiana is home to two closely related members of the genus *Amelanchier*: smooth Allegheny serviceberry (*A. laevis*) and downy serviceberry (*A. arborea*). Allegheny serviceberry offers bronze purple foliage in spring, and its fruits are more palatable than those of downy serviceberry.

These two species readily hybridize to produce apple serviceberry (*A. x grandiflora*).

Breeders have developed many cultivars to enhance qualities such as autumn color and branching habit, as well as resistance to some afflictions of these and other members of the rose family.

Serviceberries provide interest across the seasons. Among their common names are shadbush and shadblow, because in early spring, around the time shad fish are

## Inside

Conference	11
INPS at work	7-11
Invasives	4,12,13
Naturalist profile	5
Photo contest	2-3

spawning in New England rivers, before dogwood and redbud blossom, serviceberry displays racemes of five-petaled, lightly fragrant white blossoms. Per Cullina, they "look as though they've been dusted with late-season snow."

Butterflies and other insects seek out the blooms' nectar. Moreover, *A. arborea* is a larval host to five species of moths and *A. laevis* to another, according to "HOSTS - a Database of the World's Lepidopteran Hostplants" posted at [www.nhym.ac.uk](http://www.nhym.ac.uk). The database lists *Amelanchier* spp. as hosting 10 additional Lepidoptera.

In early summer, sweet blue-black berries ripen, giving rise to another common name, Juneberry. The berries are important sources of energy for birds such as thrushes and grosbeaks during the breeding season. They are said to resemble blueberries by folks lucky enough to harvest some ahead of the birds and mammals.

*Serviceberry* – continued on page 15



Lynne Tweedle

"It's quite amazing!  
I never saw a cedar waxwing in my landscape until I planted two serviceberries. How they found these plants, I haven't a clue... but they come back every year."  
– Kim Eierman on [ecobeneficial.com](http://ecobeneficial.com)

# Photo contest

## Portraits

INPS hosted its first photo contest in 2019. Winners were announced at the annual conference in Fort Wayne Nov. 9. The winning photographs were shown as part of the conference sponsors PowerPoint program during the event. Cash prizes were awarded in each of two categories, portrait and scene: first place, \$75; second, \$50; third, \$25.

Lee Casebere, Alicia Douglass, Ellen Jacquart, Cindy Monnier and Greg Shaner were contest judges. 🌱



Above and on back cover,  
1<sup>st</sup>: Tim Street, bloodroot  
(*Sanguinaria canadensis*)

Top, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Teddy Alfrey,  
purple coneflower  
(*Echinacea purpurea*)

Right, 3<sup>d</sup>: Richard Miller,  
royal catchfly (*Silene regia*)



# winners

## Scenes

1<sup>st</sup>: Robert Easter; flowering plants including nodding onion (*Allium cernuum*), great blue lobelia (*Lobelia siphilitica*), pale touch-me-not (*Impatiens pallida*), downy skullcap (*Scutellaria incana*), zig-zag spiderwort (*Tradescantia subaspera*)



Left, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Mary Durkin, cutleaf coneflower (*Rudbeckia laciniata*); above: 3<sup>rd</sup>: Karen Griggs, winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)

# Is princess tree your legacy?

## Invasive plant profile

### By Amber Slaughterbeck

Neighbors often envy state-of-the-art lawn mowers, freshly paved driveways and, yes, plants. Unfortunately, some of those showy plants are invasive species, maturing quickly, producing an abundance of seeds and ultimately outcompeting our native species. The invasive princess tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*) possesses all these qualities.



Wikimedia – Meneerke Bloem

Princess tree  
flowers (above)  
and clusters of  
round, pecan-like  
fruits (right)



Wikimedia – 4028mdk09

The first time I noticed this tree was on my routine bike ride down a county road en route to Illinois. It was planted among some good ol' Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*) as the centerpiece for a modest rural home. Since it closely resembled our native catalpa tree (*Catalpa speciosa*), I just admired its large, heart-shaped leaves that caught my eye. As I observed over time, the tree grew over the roof of the porch the first year, then over the roof of the home the next year.

At five to seven years old, one princess tree can produce approximately 20 million tiny winged seeds per year, which makes seeds plentiful for sharing. I soon realized that other neighbors had also been intrigued by the tree, and as of 2019, several had also added this species to their landscaping.

Who cares, right?

Then in late summer, 2018, I happened upon a tree in the Wabash River bottoms that caught my eye with its opposite branches, massive heart-shaped leaves and tropical appearance. Its fuzzy leaves measured two feet by two feet, which immediately sounded an alarm in my mind. This was not native catalpa. Follow-up conversations with Dawn Slack and Ellen Jacquart confirmed my suspicion. It was princess tree and it was spreading.

Notable differences between our native catalpa and invasive princess tree are found in seed pods, leaves and pith. *Paulownia* has a hollowed or chambered pith while that of *catalpa* is solid. *Catalpa* leaves are whorled and more distinctly pointed at the tip than *paulownia* leaves, which are not whorled and have a less elongated tip. *Catalpa* fruits are long, slender pods measuring 20-46 cm (8-18 inches). Fruits of the princess tree measure only 3-4 cm (1-1.5 inches) and appear in clusters of round capsules resembling pecan (Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council, 2019).

*Paulownia tomentosa* is native to western and central China where historical records describe its medicinal, ornamental and timber uses as early as the third century B.C. In Japan it has been cultivated and valued for centuries. It was imported to Europe in the 1830s by the Dutch East India Company and brought to North America a few years later.

Now several websites promote princess tree as the perfect fast-growing landscape tree. However, the authors of "A Management Guide for Invasive Plants in Southern Forests" advise that the top management strategy for this species is simply "Do not plant." Their second strategy is to "minimize disturbance [of soil] within miles of where this plant occurs" (Miller, Manning et al., 2010). Alarming, isn't it? Princess tree, royal empress tree, royal tree, all are names for this poster child for environmentally and economically detrimental invasive plants.

*Invasive – continued on page 15*

# Frank Wallace, state entomologist

## By Terri Gorney

In the summer of 1913, a woman hired Frank Wallace for what he called “some tree work she wished to have done on the tract of woods she had just purchased, in which she was building a cabin.” This job would change his life personally and professionally.

The woman was the author and naturalist Gene Stratton-Porter. Wallace helped her manage the 120 acres she had purchased on Sylvan Lake in Noble County that she called Wildflower Woods. He began courting Gene’s secretary Lorene Miller, and the two married at Wildflower Woods on June 30, 1915.

“I have known only a few people who enjoyed the woods and fields or loved wildflowers in the intimate way Mrs. Porter loved them,” Wallace recalled. “To her, the finding of a new wildflower for her collection was a real adventure.” Frank and Gene became lifelong friends.

Frank Nicol Wallace was born in 1878 in Chicago to Scottish immigrant parents, John and Anna Hume Wallace. He spent some of his childhood in Cincinnati, then the family moved to Indianapolis, where he lived the majority of his life. Frank and Lorene had one son who lived to adulthood, John Hume Wallace.

Wallace’s career was long and productive and his accomplishments could fill a book. In 1909, he was named assistant state entomologist. In 1915, Gene Stratton-Porter wrote to Governor Samuel Ralston, recommending that he name Wallace state entomologist, a position he held for 43 years until his retirement in 1958.

During World War I, Wallace asked that beekeepers increase their honey production for food and as income for the beekeepers. He worked with Colonel Richard Lieber and others to stop the draining of the lakes in northern Indiana for agricultural use. He supported Lieber’s plans to create a state park system, giving talks on the value of the parks.

In 1920 he joined the Indiana Academy of Science. In 1940 he was elected its president. He was its only president not to have a college degree. In fact, Wallace did not graduate high school.

Wallace was pro-active in managing invasive insects. He sought inspections of plants and trees being brought into the state. In his

presidential address to the Academy on Nov. 15, 1940, entitled “Japanese Beetle Control in Indiana,” he said, “May I emphasize the fact that we believe we can cope with these infestations if we discover them in time.”

The Japanese beetle (*Popillia japonica*) entered the US through a port in New Jersey in 1916. Wallace believed it could have been better controlled from the outset. In 1926, he asked state legislators for a special fund to combat the beetle before it reached Indiana.

In 1933, a woman reported seeing one in Indianapolis. In 1934, the beetles were discovered again in Indiana, and

Wallace already had the funds to manage it.

When the insecticide DDT was introduced in the 1940s, however, Wallace was one of the few skeptics concerned about spraying it over the countryside.

Wallace’s passion was photographing wildflowers. In the mid-1930s, he set out to make 100 color slides of Hoosier wildflowers that would be inexpensive so that schools could afford them. He soon discovered there were more than 350 wildflowers. He had friends choose the 100 most beautiful species for the collection.

A popular public speaker, Wallace presented his color slides to hundreds of organizations and groups of nature lovers. He tried to educate the public not to pick wildflowers or move them to their yards. He spoke on a variety of topics: wildflowers, state parks, beneficial and harmful insects, and the scenic beauty of Indiana.

In 1955 Governor George Craig gave Wallace an award for 40 years of service. Known as “Mr. Indiana,” he was the oldest state employee at the time.

## Naturalist profile



From left: Frank Wallace, Charles Deam, Frank MacFarland

*Naturalist* – continued on page 14



# Indiana Parks Alliance is saving ash trees

**By Tom Hohman**

The emerald ash borer (EAB), an exotic invasive beetle, has decimated ash trees throughout Indiana. The beetles (*Agrilus*

few public properties, Indiana Parks Alliance (IPA) has been partnering with the Dept. of Natural Resources, to protect remnant populations at multiple state parks and state-owned preserves. Trees at these properties in central and southern Indiana were treated with emamectin benzoate. The chemical is injected directly into the inner bark of trees, where it attacks EAB larvae directly.

Thanks to donations from multiple individuals and organizations, including INPS, IPA has treated 224 trees at six state parks and eight nature preserves. IPA also purchased insecticide and an applicator for DNR staff to use on additional trees at other properties.

Trees treated by IPA include white ash (*Fraxinus americana*), green ash (*F. pennsylvanica*) and blue ash (*F. quadrangulata*). Blue ashes seem to have some resistance to EAB and may survive without treatment, but a number of large blue ash at Mounds State Park were given an initial treatment to ensure their survival.

Long-term prospects for ash trees are uncertain. In areas where EAB has been present long enough, ash trees have been almost totally wiped out. However, there are isolated cases of individual specimens appearing to have some natural resistance and surviving without treatment. In addition, ash trees are prolific seeders and ash saplings are still present in areas where mature trees are not. What is not known is if these saplings will be able to reach seed-bearing age before EAB strikes again.

IPA plans to continue monitoring treated areas for signs of EAB activity, re-treating when needed. It is hoped that in addition to saving these giant specimens for future generations to enjoy, the trees will provide a continued source of seeds for the next generation of ash trees.

More information about the program is at [indianaparksalliance.org](http://indianaparksalliance.org). Also see the US Forest Service website at [www.nrs.fs.fed.us/disturbance/invasive\\_species/eab/biology\\_ecology/planipennis](http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/disturbance/invasive_species/eab/biology_ecology/planipennis).

*Tom Hohman is a past president and current board member of INPS and president of Indiana Parks Alliance.*



Top: Treating against emerald ash borer at Turkey Run State Park

Bottom: Ash trees at the park's nature center

tree, essentially girdling and killing the tree. As with most cases of exotic insects creating havoc in their new homeland, there are few predators.

Indiana's state parks and nature preserves are home to many huge ash tree specimens, some hundreds of years old. In an effort to save some of these huge trees on at least a

*planipennis*) lay their eggs on or under the bark of ash trees. Larvae feed on the phloem, part of the inner bark of the tree, creating tunnels that circle the trunk and interfere with the movement of sugar and other nutrients throughout the

## Northeast Chapter

# Busy year-round

Northeast Chapter shared plant sale proceeds of a June 16 Blooms for Bees event held by the Little Turtle Chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers. Four NE board members helped with sales and had a table of INPS information.

On June 22 four members helped with the Master Gardener garden walk and plant sale at the Fort Wayne Purdue Extension Office, an event that drew hundreds of attendees. On July 22 the chapter held a Natives vs. Invasives Workshop that drew about 36 attendees and included a talk by program co-chair Martha Ferguson and a walk in Salomon Farms city park led by stewardship chair Freya Berntson.

Members staged a scavenger hunt and information booth at the new riverfront Promenade Park grand opening in Fort Wayne Aug. 11. About 17,000 people attended the three-day event. Attendees took home 400 free blue asters from a NE board member's business table during Nature Day events.

The chapter's Aug. 24 annual meeting at a Leo-Cedarville coffeehouse was followed by a tour of Heartland Restoration's prairie. On Sept. 8 members had a booth at the Monarch Festival at Eagle Marsh to provide information about planting with natives.

Members got help from community members for an Oct. 5 invasive plant removal effort at Lindenwood Nature Preserve, a public property in Fort Wayne.

Chapter board members worked hard planning the Nov. 9 annual INPS conference, hosted for the first time in Fort Wayne, making trips to organize hikes before and after the conference to Promenade Park and Chain O'Lakes State Park in Albion in Noble County.

### Upcoming hikes

The chapter plans a winter hike **Feb. 15** on the west side of Eagle Marsh wetlands. Participants are advised to "dress for the weather" and wear waterproof boots. The group will meet at 2 p.m. at the Boy Scout office parking lot, 8315 W. Jefferson Blvd. Directions: from West Jefferson, turn south on Olde Canal Place. The Boy Scout office is at the end of Olde Canal Place. The chapter will also have a "Wake up, Woods" hike at 10 a.m. **April 25** at Bicentennial Woods on Shoaff Rd., Huntertown. 🌿

## President's message

*By Ellen Jacquart*

This time of year is made for dreaming. I see green in my dreams, the first leaves of spring beauty emerging from the ground, the flower buds unfurling. It'll be a few months before we get to see that, but for now you can enjoy the winning photos from the first INPS photo contest (See page two.).

We have a new partnership to celebrate – the **2020 INPS native plant sale and auction will be Saturday, May 9, at Keep Indianapolis Beautiful's (KIB) warehouse at 3655 E. Raymond St.** We're excited to have this space for the sale (it even has a loading dock for donated plants). We're looking forward to working with KIB to bring more native plants to gardeners. Mark your calendar!

INPS holds its annual conference in different regions of the state each year, hosted by the local chapter. Northeast Chapter did a fantastic job with last fall's conference in Fort Wayne, and this year we will be back in the Central Chapter region. For those of you who like to get things on the calendar early, the 2020 conference will be Nov. 14 at 502 Event Center in Carmel. And in 2021 we'll be in Bloomington, hosted by South Central Chapter.

I'm always amazed and gratified to see how many INPS members work together to put on both statewide events and local hikes and talks around the state. Thanks to all of you who make INPS a vibrant native plant society! 🌿

**INPS at work**



Lisa Esquivel Long

*Copies of Wake Up, Woods sold out during the annual conference.*

# @indiananativeplants.org



## Mission

To promote the appreciation, preservation, scientific study, and use of plants native to Indiana.

To teach people about their beauty, diversity, and importance to our environment.

## Board of Directors

President	Ellen Jacquart	president@indiananativeplants.org	812-876-9645
Vice President	Roger Hedge	vicepres@indiananativeplants.org	317-473-3222
Secretary	Greg Shaner	secretary@indiananativeplants.org	765-447-2880
Treasurer	Don Gorney	treasurer@indiananativeplants.org	317-501-4212
Past-president	Mike Homoya	conservation@indiananativeplants.org	317-473-3164
Director	Alice Heikens	aheikens@franklincollege.edu	317-738-8302
Director	Tom Hohman	hohmantr@aol.com	317-831-1715
Director	Ruth Ann Ingraham	rai38@sbcglobal.net	317-517-9022
Director	Sally Routh	sallydrouth@gmail.com	317-258-6558

## Supporting Roles

Donor Relations	<b>Open</b>		
Historian	Ruth Ann Ingraham	historian@indiananativeplants.org	317-517-9022
Membership	Cynthia Monnier	membership@indiananativeplants.org	317-460-7751
Web Site/Communications	Wendy Ford	webmaster@indiananativeplants.org	317-413-5918

## State Program Leaders

Annual Conference	Nancy Hill	conference@indiananativeplants.org	317-514-4419
	Mary Damm	conference@indiananativeplants.org	812-333-8367
Book Sale	Suzanne Stevens	booksale@indiananativeplants.org	317-627-4082
Conservation Advocacy	Mike Homoya	conservation@indiananativeplants.org	317-473-3164
Grants & Awards	Alicia Douglass	grants@indiananativeplants.org	765-623-4652
Grow Indiana Natives	Ellen Jacquart	grow@indiananativeplants.org	812-876-9645
Invasive Plant Education	Dawn Slack	invasives@indiananativeplants.org	931-216-8373
Letha's Youth Fund	Angela Sturdevant	lethasfund@indiananativeplants.org	317-951-8818
INPS Journal	Scott Namesnik	journal@indiananativeplants.org	574-656-3511
Journal Editor	Patricia H. Cornwell	journal@indiananativeplants.org	812-732-4890
Journal Layout	Kit Newkirk	journal@indiananativeplants.org	765-719-0414
Plant Sale & Auction	Christy Krieg	plantsale@indiananativeplants.org	317-432-5496
Youth Education	<b>Open</b>	youth@indiananativeplants.org	

## Chapter Leaders

Central	Brooke Alford	central@indiananativeplants.org	206-380-1267
East Central	Jon Creek	eastcentral@indiananativeplants.org	765-499-3670
North	Jan Hunter	north@indiananativeplants.org	419-833-2020
Northeast	Laura Stine	northeast@indiananativeplants.org	260-414-7758
South Central	Steve Dunbar	southcentral@indiananativeplants.org	812-325-0968
Southwest	Anne Butsch	southwest@indiananativeplants.org	812-453-0470
West Central	Mickey Penrod	westcentral@indiananativeplants.org	765-523-3538

## ©2020

**INPS JOURNAL** is published quarterly for members of the Indiana Native Plant Society. Material may be reprinted with permission of the editors.

**Submissions:** Anyone may submit articles, photos and news items. Acceptance is at the discretion of the editors. Submit text and photos (300 ppi) via email to [journal@indiananativeplants.org](mailto:journal@indiananativeplants.org). Query for writer's guidelines. Deadlines: Jan. 1 issue – Oct 22; April 1 issue – Jan. 22; July 1 issue – April 22; Oct. 1 issue – July 22.

**Membership:** INPS is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization open to the public. Join at [www.indiananativeplants.org](http://www.indiananativeplants.org).

**Share online:** Send information for posting to [webmaster@indiananativeplants.org](mailto:webmaster@indiananativeplants.org).



## Florathon '19

# Team boasts fun & new “find”

**By Dottie Warmbier & Mary Weeks**

**Mark your calendar: Florathon 2020 will be April 18 – May 31.**

On a beautiful day last May, five members of our informal hiking group put together a team for the 2019 INPS Florathon competition.

With Gillian Harris as leader, Liz Robb, Kathy Rusink, Mary Weeks, Dottie Warmbier and Ann Delano combed familiar trails in the Deam Wilderness Area, Cedar Bluff Nature Preserve, T.C. Steel Nature Preserve and private property on Kerr Creek Road in search of flowering native plants. We called our Monroe County-based team the “Wildest Deams.” [sic]

One team member waxed poetic after our outing: “As thrilled as I am by a beautiful garden, nothing compares to seeing plants in their natural habitat. The hunt for spring ephemerals, simply put, awakens my soul! Venturing out with a tribe of like-minded friends is an unmatched joy.”

We identified 75 species in a 24-hour period, averaging one species per mile driven! A big thanks to William Harris, driver, cheerleader and additional photo documenter.

With boots on the ground, battling ticks and gnats, entering rattlesnake territory (well, we did see a rough green snake) and hanging off cliffs, our team discovered or reacquainted ourselves with many spring ephemerals. We also had the thrill of finding a new-to-us species – whorled pogonia (*Isotria verticillata*)!

We shaped our strategies to fulfill INPS guidelines as well to fit our abilities: find as many species as we could (and beat our 2018 number of 60+); spend more of our time hiking and less time in cars; self-sponsor for Letha’s Youth Outdoors Fund, each member making a donation; and split the 24-hour time limit over two half-days.

Details and rules for Florathon 2020 are at [indiananativeplants.org](http://indiananativeplants.org). We encourage you to take part. It may be better than your Wildest Deams!

*Dottie Warmbier and Mary Weeks are members of INPS South Central Chapter.*



Gillian Harris



Samantha Ransdell

Top: Whorled pogonia, a new species for members of the “Wildest Deams” Florathon team

Left: During the recent annual conference, Barbara Homoya awarded “Audrey II,” the traveling Florathon trophy, to Mark Sheehan who accepted on behalf of the winning “Bloomin’ Stellarias” team.

## North Chapter news

September found North Chapter members out and about. They gathered at the home of president Jan Hunter for their annual potluck, joined DNR regional ecologist Emily Stork to hike Pine Station Nature Preserve in Gary, and had their annual plant sale at the South Bend/Elkhart Audubon Society’s Wildlife Sanctuary.

In October members met at the Paul H. Douglas Center for Environmental Education in Gary. Orbis botanist Nathanael Pilla spoke about wildflowers of the Indiana Dunes. In November members met at Indiana University South Bend, where associate professor Deb Marr shared results of research projects, including work with mycorrhizal fungi and pollinator diversity in wetlands and rain gardens. A December potluck was held at a member’s home in Valparaiso, with election of leaders. 🍁

# INPS grant 2019

## By Terri Gorney

The Friends of the Limberlost received a Biodiversity Grant for \$1000 from INPS in November, 2018. It was for restoring an acre of native prairie plants for land at the Overlook

first mowed to prevent the planted species from being shaded by other species. That planting was done in the fall of 2018.

In the spring of 2019, this area was burned and native plants<sup>2</sup> from the INPS grant were planted under the supervision of ecologist Taylor Lehman. Taylor has maintained the plantings by spot spraying unwanted species such as giant ragweed and poison hemlock. The before and after pictures speak for the benefits of the prairie restoration of two acres of land at the Overlook. The summer of 2019 saw more monarchs and other butterflies at the marsh and ground nesting birds such as the blue grosbeak. The improvement of this

preserve is an ongoing endeavor.

Many thanks to INPS for the good work that is done for conservation all over the state.

<sup>1</sup> Butterfly weed, golden alexanders, prairie dropseed, Culver's root.

<sup>2</sup> Switch grass, Bicknell's sedge, nodding wild rye, Virginia wild rye, little bluestem, nodding pink onion, common milkweed, stiff goldenrod, white heath aster, smooth blue aster, white wild indigo, purple coneflower, rattlesnake master, round-head bushclover, wild bergamot, foxglove beardtongue, purple prairie clover, tall cinquefoil, common mountain mint, yellow coneflower, black-eyed Susan, rosin-weed, old field goldenrod. 🍂



Terri Gorney



Terri Gorney

Top: Sep. 13, 2019  
- the site after a  
year of growth

Bottom: Sep. 21,  
2018 - the site after  
burning, where  
plugs and seeds  
were planted later  
that week

on the 1,800 acres of the Limberlost Conservation Area.

In 2016, the Loblolly Overlook offered a high point on the land with a view but then ecologist Ben W. Hess thought the view and land could be improved. A grant from the Lilly Foundation through the Indiana Historical Society paid for the interpretive sign. The first acre of restoration of native plants<sup>1</sup> was from a grant from Indiana Parks Alliance and funds from Friends of the Limberlost. The area was

**Watch for announcement  
of awards of INPS  
Biodiversity Grants  
in our spring issue!**

# Conference '19 recap “Building Biodiversity”

**By Lisa Esquivel Long**

The INPS annual conference took place Saturday, Nov. 9, at Great Wayne Convention Center in Fort Wayne, hosted for the first time by the Northeast Chapter. “Building Biodiversity: The Art and the Science” was the theme of the event attended by 355 persons.

Patrick McMillan, Clemson University professor and director of the South Carolina Botanical Garden, was keynote speaker. “I never expected to come to Fort Wayne and see this,” McMillan said, looking at the crowd. “I can’t tell you how blown away I am.”

McMillan called on attendees not to simplify their landscapes with homogenous plants and instead to “intersect beauty.” During his later speech on hummingbirds, he entertained the audience with slow-motion video of the birds.

“This is the part that’s going to make me cry,” one attendee said before Kevin Tunesvick, senior ecologist at restoration firm Eco Logic, gave a presentation on climate change and issued a call for activism. Because plants don’t move fast, the speaker explained, such trees as American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) and the state tree, tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), will die out in Indiana.

“We cannot fix this by changing our light-bulbs,” Tunesvick said.

Michael Homoya injected a bit of levity while quizzing attendees on their knowledge of Indiana’s people, places and plants.

Sharon Sorenson, author of *Planting Native to Attract Birds to Your Yard*, addressed the conference on creating a thriving habitat for birds.

Tony Fleming, geologist at Chain O’Lakes State Park, spoke about the impact of glaciers on Indiana’s geological forms.

Alyssa Nyberg, manager of Kankakee Sands Native Plant Nursery, shared information on how to germinate native seeds.

Mark Sheehan, native seed swap coordinator, reported 30 donors gave nearly 89,000 seeds from 65 species, including wild quinine (*Parthenium integrifolium*), Eastern wahoo (*Euonymus atropurpureus*), spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) and Michigan lily (*Lilium michiganense*).

Homoya, who wrote the text for the INPS-published children’s book *Wake Up, Woods*, and Gillian Harris, who created its illustrations, signed copies of the book, which sold out.



Samantha Ransdell

The event included several pre- and post-conference activities. Betsy Yankowiak, director of preserves and programs at Little River Wetlands, took attendees on a tour of Eagle Marsh, a restored wetland. Natalie Haley, Fox Island naturalist, led a tour of the sand dunes there. Eric Ummel, garden supervisor at Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation, took a group through the recently opened riverfront Promenade Park. Nate Cardelli of Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory guided nine conference-goers through the conservatory’s plant displays. Tony Fleming took 22 hikers to see the kettles, kames and other features of Chain O’ Lakes State Park. Also, two anonymous Northeast Chapter members funded a pre-conference reception.

Members voted to have Michael Homoya, Tom Hohman and Ruth Ann Ingraham continue on the board of directors and elected two new board members: Alice Heikens, professor of biology at Franklin College, and Sally Routh, treasurer of the Indiana Audubon Society.

Ronnie Greenberg and Nancy Hill were conference co-chairs.

*Lisa Esquivel Long is a board member of INPS Northeast Chapter.*

*Betsy Yankowiak described the restoration work in Eagle Marsh during a pre-conference hike.*

## Harrison County

# Volunteers launch new CISMA

### By Samantha Ransdell

I spent years thinking ordinary people don't have all that much control over what happens around us. The government decides everything, and big corporations do what they want. A lot of people feel powerless to make a difference. I have learned this isn't true. With even

engaged. We are still a fledgling group finding our wings, but we've already accomplished a good deal and learned plenty.

Our first challenge was to create a mission statement. After many hours of discussion, we decided to focus on Harrison County's special features as a hotspot of biodiversity. We wanted our group not to focus entirely on the removal of invasives but also on preservation of the habitats that make Harrison County special. We wanted to teach people to be good stewards. Through the gentle guidance of our mentor Dawn Slack of TNC, we whittled it down to the bones. Our mission statement evolved into this: *To preserve the natural habitats of Harrison County, Indiana, by educating our community on the impacts of invasive species.*

Next we had to decide on a name. Several more hours and votes later, we became the *Harrison County Native Habitat Alliance*. Each word was chosen carefully, and the name speaks volumes. Hopefully, by the time you read this, we will have a logo as well.

Despite not being entirely organized (we couldn't wait), we held our first Weed Wrangle Sept. 28 and it was a great success. Seventeen volunteers cut and treated wayfaring tree (*Viburnum lantana*) and autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*) along the beginning of Indian Creek Trail in Hayswood Nature Reserve in Corydon. We chose this spot because it is easily accessible, highly visible and central to the community. What a difference a small group can make in a few hours! We had three vehicles hauling debris away almost the entire time.

The Harrison County Native Habitat Alliance has big plans for the future. We hope to build strong partnerships with other local organizations, do more education and get the community involved. There will be another Weed Wrangle this spring, and we are making plans to replant the trail area with native trees and shrubs as educational habitat restoration. I look forward to seeing it (and our group) grow!

*Samantha Ransdell is a member of INPS South Central Chapter and chair of the Harrison County Native Habitat Alliance.*



Kaila Knies



Kaila Knies

Top: Harrison County's first Weed Wranglers

Bottom: One of many truckloads of invasive species removed from the Hayswood Nature Reserve

which lies along the Ohio River in south central Indiana, now has a Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA)!

Over the past year, dedicated professionals worked to get local organizations and citizens together to start talking about forming a CISMA. Purdue Extension Service, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and Southern Indiana Cooperative Invasives Management (SICIM) have been invaluable in this effort. We have a good core group, and I believe our ranks will swell once we really get the community

a small group of dedicated people, you can make a change. I'm proud to say I've become part of one of these changes. Harrison County,

## On the frontlines

# Invasive species management

### By Dawn Slack

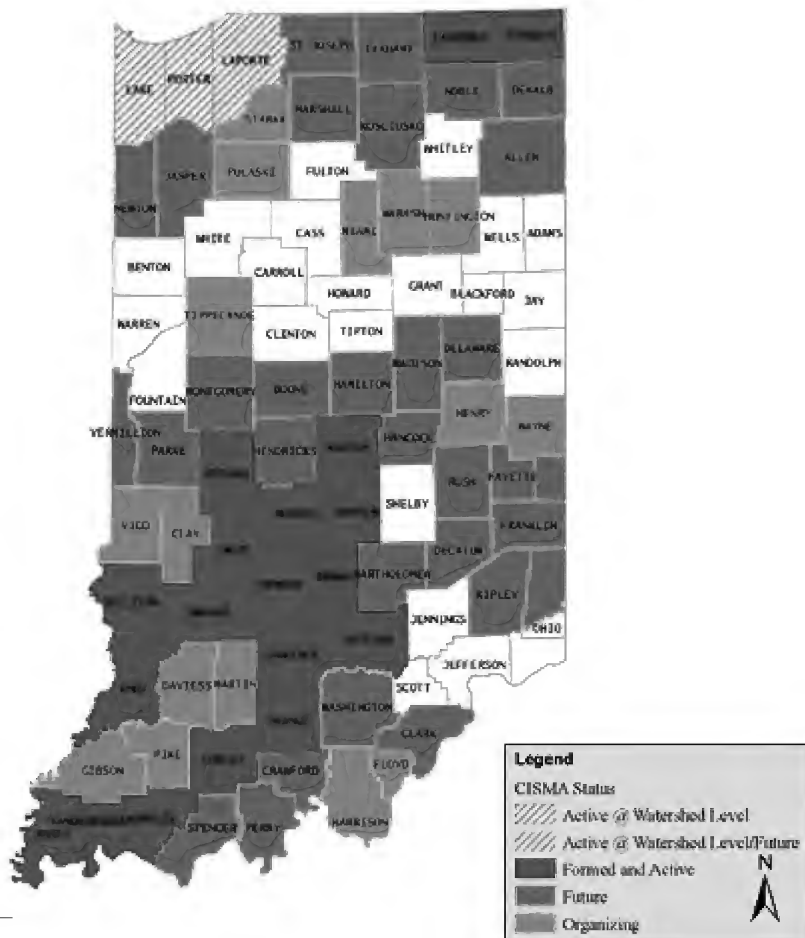
Indiana's Terrestrial Plant Rule, signed into effect in April, 2019, becomes enforceable this spring. Its one-year grace period ends and it becomes enforceable by the Department of Natural Resources Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology in April, 2020.

The statewide Indiana Invasives Initiative (III) continues to spread and III's regional specialists continue to share information about the impacts of invasive plant species. The goal of III is to have at least 60 of Indiana's 92 counties represented by a Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) by the end of 2022.

Each CISMA will consist of both professionals and citizens who, under the direction of state experts and conservation agencies, will provide guidance to communities on how to manage invasive species and foster the use of native plants. The first CISMA was formed in Brown County in 2006. At this time, there are 19 CISMAs in the state and four more almost ready for that designation. Regional specialists, their project coordinator, and members of some long-standing CISMAs are presently working with citizens in more than 50 counties, and more than 25 of those counties are actively working on developing a CISMA.

Go to [www.sicim.info](http://www.sicim.info) to find out how you and your county can join the fight to save Indiana's beloved parks, forests, lakes, streams and other cherished natural places. Check out the Terrestrial Plant Rule fact sheet and see the list of banned plants at [indiananativeplants.org/biodiversity/2019-terrestrial-invasive-plant-rule](http://indiananativeplants.org/biodiversity/2019-terrestrial-invasive-plant-rule).

*Dawn Slack is director of stewardship for the Indiana Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, chair of the Invasive Plant Advisory Committee and a member of INPS South Central Chapter. She can be reached at [dawn.slack@tnc.org](mailto:dawn.slack@tnc.org).*



## CISMA conference to be March 26

The annual CISMA (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area) conference will be March 26 at Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds. The event will be a full day (9 a.m.-4 p.m.) of current research about the impacts of invasive species, a techniques training session, updates on spotted lantern fly, kudzu management in Indiana, the Terrestrial Plant Rule (which becomes enforceable in April), the Indiana Invasives Initiative (III) project, the soon-to-be released Indiana Terrestrial Plant Rule Pocket Guide, and more. For registration information and updates, go to [tinyurl.com/CISMA2020](http://tinyurl.com/CISMA2020).

# Invasive-free plant seller: Riverview Native Nursery

## By Ellen Jacquart

Note: Grow Indiana Natives is the INPS program to connect customers with native plant sellers and designers and promote use of native plants in home gardens. For more information on where to buy natives and how to certify your garden as a Grow Indiana Natives garden, visit [GrowIndianaNatives.org](http://GrowIndianaNatives.org). In this issue, we feature an Invasive-Free Grow Indiana Natives member, Riverview Native Nursery in northeast Indiana. Martha Bishop Ferguson, owner, answered our questions.

Grow  
Indiana  
Natives



### When and why did you start your business?

In the fall of 2012 a restoration company came to consult about our land, and they asked if I wanted to start a retail nursery because they had a lot of demand for retail sales but they only sold wholesale. My initial thought was that was an easy way to lose a lot of money quickly! Then I decided to take the plunge. I started selling native perennials, grasses and sedges in the spring of 2013 at events and by appointment. I added native trees and shrubs in 2014.

### What are your most popular species – the hot sellers?

Milkweed is by far our biggest seller and butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) tops that list, followed by swamp milkweed (*A. incarnata*) and common milkweed (*A. syriaca*). It is odd (and an inventory challenge) that the hot sellers in trees and shrubs vary from year to year. In 2019, spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) was by far our most popular species.

### What is your favorite native landscape plant and why?

This question is unanswerable. I have taught myself to say, "This is one of my favorite plants." I really am enamored with prairie dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*) for landscapes and false blue indigo (*Baptisia australis*), royal catchfly (*Silene regia*), purple prairie clover (*Dalea purpurea*), and penstemon (*Penstemon digitalis*). Most of my favorite plants, though,

are wetland plants for rain gardens, bioswales and the edges of our numerous lakes in northeast Indiana.

### What do you think is the biggest misconception about native landscaping?

That natives mean prairies and prairies are a hot mess in the landscape. Prairie plants can be incorporated into a wide variety of designs in the landscape. Trees and shrubs are necessary in every landscape to add structure, shade, and habitat for birds, and we have a wealth of native landscape-worthy trees and shrubs.

### What else do you want people to know about your business?

We only sell native plants and 85% of those are genotypes local to northeast Indiana. The rest are native to our eco-region. We can identify the source of the seeds for every plant we sell. Knowledgeable staff will help customers make the best selections.

For more about Riverview Native Nursery, see [riverviewnativenursery.com](http://riverviewnativenursery.com).

Ellen Jacquart is president of INPS.

## Naturalist – from page 5

The *Muncie Evening Press* wrote of Wallace's passing at age 89 in its May 31, 1968, edition: "Few public officials have served their state better than Frank Wallace. Indiana's great system of state parks exists in part because of Wallace's cooperation with the late Richard Lieber, father of the system. Wallace was a thorough conservationist who believed ardently in the preservation of Indiana's beauty spots in their natural state. A top-flight photographer, his presentations of color slides of such places and lectures did much to promote conservation."

### Sources

1940 US Federal Census, Indiana, Marion, Indianapolis, #96-348

Proceedings of the Indiana Academy of Science, 1968  
IUPUI Archives, Indiana University Archives  
[Newspapers.com](http://Newspapers.com)  
[Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com)

Terri Gomey is a member of INPS Northeast Chapter and vice-president of Friends of the Limberlost.



## *Invasive* – from page 4

Princess tree is listed by the Indiana Invasive Species Council as a species of caution in the state. Caution designation is given when the assessment of a species could not be completed due to lack of information, but there is potential for invasion and impacts. Nonetheless, caution should be used on all plants that are non-native, fast maturing, early flowering, prolific seed producers, and not choosy about soil type or habitat.

And so I ask – have you perhaps already planted this tree? Stop reading. Head outside. Fire up the chainsaw.

### **References**

- Miller, James H.; Chambiss, Erwin B.; and Loewenstein, Nancy J., 2010. A field guide for the identification of invasive plants in southern forests, Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-119. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Southern Research Station.
- Miller, James H.; Manning, Steven T.; Enloe, Stephen F., 2010. A management guide for invasive plants in southern forests. Gen. Tech. Rep. SRS-131. Asheville, NC: U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station.
- Langdon, K. R.; Johnson, K. D. Additional notes on invasiveness of *Paulownia tomentosa* in natural areas. *Natural Areas Journal* 14 (2):139-140; 1994.
- Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council, [www.se-eppc.org/manual/princess.html](http://www.se-eppc.org/manual/princess.html), 2019

*Amber Slaughterbeck is SICIM regional specialist for west central Indiana and a member of INPS Central Chapter.*

### **Wake Up, Woods to represent state**

The Indiana State Library has chosen *Wake Up, Woods*, the children's book published in 2019 by INPS, to represent the state in the 2020 National Book Festival. It will join a list of books for children and youth that represent the 50 states, the District of Columbia and the US Virgin Islands. The list will be distributed by the Library of Congress's Center for the Book. Published by Rubber Ducky Press, the book was written by Michael A. Homoya and Shane Gibson and illustrated by Gillian Harris. 🌿

### **WUW donor**

An additional donor has been reported for the INPS publication of the children's book *Wake Up, Woods*, South Central Chapter member Donna Ormiston.

## *Serviceberry* – from page 1

Fall brings red or orange foliage, and winter highlights serviceberry's smooth gray bark, which covers the strong, dense wood



Lynne Tweedie

that is among the heaviest in North America. This hard wood made it popular among early settlers for tool handles and now makes serviceberry more resilient in storms than the invasive Callery pear.

*Katherine Newkirk is co-editor of INPS Journal and a member of Central Chapter.*

*Near the Putnam County Library, a serviceberry displays vivid fall foliage.*

*"The plants are the makers of  
this earth's atmospheric oxygen,  
and the source of all we eat ...  
So salute the green leaf and  
thank it for your life."*

– Hal Borland  
*A Countryman's Flowers*



# Indiana Native Plant Society

P.O. Box 501528  
Indianapolis, IN 46250-6528  
Address Service Requested

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Indianapolis, IN  
Permit No. 229



*First place winner in the portrait category of the INPS photo contest (page 4): Tim Street, bloodroot (Sanguinaria canadensis)*